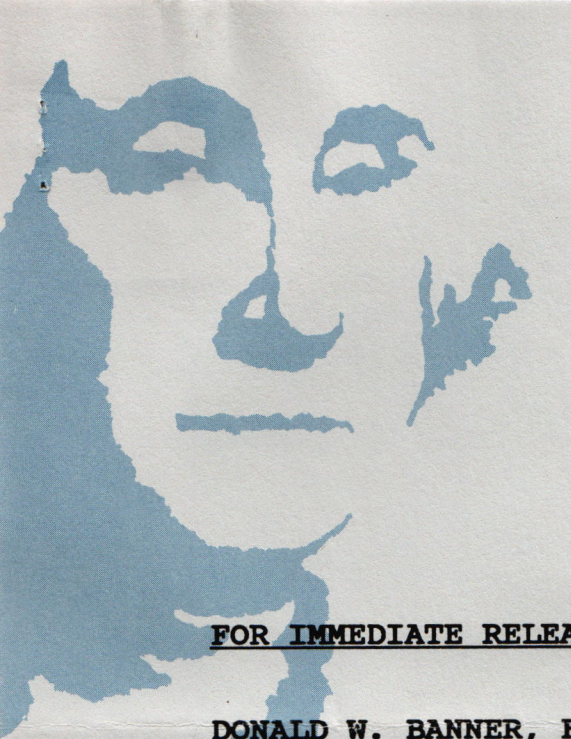




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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DONALD W. BANNER, FORMER U.S. COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS
AND TRADEMARKS, JOINS NATIONAL LAW CENTER FACULTY**

Washington, D.C. -- Donald W. Banner, a noted authority on U.S. and foreign intellectual property law and a former U.S. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, will join the faculty of The George Washington University National Law Center as professor and director of the Intellectual Property Law Program. He will continue as a partner in the Washington, D.C., law firm of Banner, Birch, McKie and Beckett.

In making the announcement, Jack Friedenthal, dean of the National Law Center, cited Banner as an "outstanding addition" to the Center's faculty. "There is no one in the country I would rather have as director of our Intellectual Property Law Program," he said. According to Friedenthal, Banner's arrival underscores the National Law Center's major commitment to the field of intellectual property law.

Widely known as a leader in the profession, Banner has been chairman of the American Bar Association Section of Patent,

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Trademark and Copyright Law; president of the American Intellectual Property Law Association; president of the Association of Corporate Patent Council and president of the International Patent and Trademark Association.

A decorated fighter pilot in the European Theatre during World War II, Banner served as an attorney at the Borg-Warner Corporation in Chicago before becoming Commissioner and was General Patent Counsel for that corporation for fifteen years. From 1959 until 1978, he also served as an adjunct professor of law, teaching patent, trademark and antitrust law at The John Marshall Law School (Chicago, IL), and served as Distinguished Professor of Law at John Marshall from 1978 to 1988. In addition, Banner served as director of the Graduate School program in Intellectual Property and director of the Center for Intellectual Property Law at John Marshall.

In 1982, Banner was the first American to receive the award for Outstanding Contributions to International Cooperation in the Intellectual Property Field from the Pacific Industrial Property Association. He also was named the 1984 recipient of the Jefferson Medal for Outstanding Contributions in the field of Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law by the New Jersey Patent Law Association.

Since 1980, Banner has been president of Intellectual Property Owners, Inc., a non-profit corporation. The firm is

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dedicated to improving the climate for invention and innovation in the United States and strengthening national and international laws concerning patents, trademarks, copyrights and trade secrets.

Banner, has lectured on intellectual property law throughout the United States and in many other countries including Brazil, France, Hungary, Switzerland, Japan and the Peoples Republic of China. He served as editor of Clark Boardman's "Intellectual Property Law Review," and editor of "Developments," published annually by The John Marshall Law School. He also has contributed to several publications of the ABA Section of Antitrust Law.